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REMARKS

The Examiner's attention is drawn to the revocation and power of attorney submitted herewith.

The Examiner has objected to the drawings. Such objection is deemed avoided by virtue of the new sheets submitted herewith, which conform the drawings to the originally filed specification. No new matter has been added.

The Examiner objected to Claim 5 due to informalities. Applicant respectfully asserts that such objection is avoided in view of the amendment made to Claim 5 above.

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1-11 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Applicant respectfully asserts that the Examiner's rejection of Claims 1, 3, 4, 7, and 11 (see paragraphs 10-12, and 14-15 of the latest Office Action) are avoided in view of the amendments made to the same. Further, with respect to Claim 1, the Examiner has argued that "[i]t is unclear how the "door assembly" of Claim 1 is "operably connected to the gaming machine main housing and movable between an open position providing external access to the chamber and a closed position securing the major opening." In response, applicant respectfully asserts that the specific connection to the gaming machine main housing is purposefully not claimed and would unduly limit such claim, especially since it would be sufficiently clear to one of ordinary skill that any suitable connection may render the aforementioned functionality.

In addition, the Examiner has argued that "[i]t is unclear how the "belly door" of claim 4 is "connected to the door assembly and operable between an open position in which a selected one of the rails is visible, and a closed position in which the selected one of the rails is concealed." Again, applicant respectfully asserts that the specific

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connection to the door assembly is not claimed and would unduly limit such claim. Also, the Examiner argued that “[i]t is unclear if “the selected one of the rails” refers to the selected one of the rails of claim 4.’ Applicant respectfully asserts that “the selected one of the rails is provided with a first surface finish” (see Claim 5) refers to “the selected one of the rails” (see Claim 4).

The Examiner rejected Claims 1, 2, 10, and 11 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Grande (U.S. Patent No. 4,795,155) in view of Ramachandran (U.S. Patent No. 5,788,348). Applicant respectfully disagrees with such rejection, especially in view of the amendments made hereinabove to the independent claim.

To establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, three basic criteria must be met. First, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. Finally, the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations. The teaching or suggestion to make the claimed combination and the reasonable expectation of success must both be found in the prior art and not based on applicant’s disclosure. *In re Vaeck*, 947 F.2d 488, 20 USPQ2d 1438 (Fed.Cir.1991).

With respect to the first element of the *prima facie* case of obviousness and, in particular, the obviousness of combining the aforementioned references, the Examiner argued that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to modify Grande’s gaming machine door to utilize a plurality of components, as taught by Ramachandran, in order to facilitate the removal and replacement of individual components in the event that a component was damaged instead of replacing the entire door. Applicant respectfully disagrees with such statement, especially in view of the vast evidence to the contrary.

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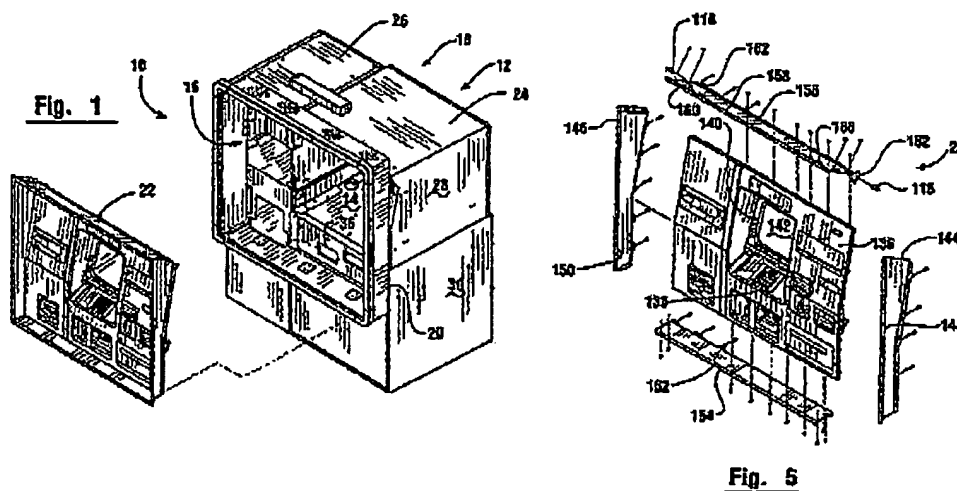
For example, the Examiner fails to cite specific motivation in the above references to support the case for combining the same. The Examiner is reminded that the Federal Circuit requires that there must be some logical reason apparent from the evidence of record that would justify the combination or modification of references. In re Regel, 188 USPQ 132 (CCPA 1975).

Moreover, Grande relates to a gaming device, while Ramachandran relates to an automated teller machine. To simply glean features from an automated teller machine, such as that of Ramachandran, and combine the same with the *non-analogous art* of gaming devices, such as that of Grande would simply be improper. Automated teller machines are used for banking purposes, while a gaming device is used for gaming. "In order to rely on a reference as a basis for rejection of an applicant's invention, the reference must either be in the field of applicant's endeavor or, if not, then be reasonably pertinent to the particular problem with which the inventor was concerned." In re Oetiker, 977 F.2d 1443, 1446, 24 USPQ2d 1443, 1445 (Fed. Cir. 1992). See also In re Deminski, 796 F.2d 436, 230 USPQ 313 (Fed. Cir. 1986); In re Clay, 966 F.2d 656, 659, 23 USPQ2d 1058, 1060-61 (Fed. Cir. 1992) In view of the vastly different types of problems an automated teller machine addresses as opposed to a gaming device, the Examiner's proposed combination is inappropriate.

Applicant respectfully asserts that at least the first element of the *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been met, since it would be *unobvious* to combine the references, as noted above. Nevertheless, despite such paramount deficiencies and in the spirit of expediting the prosecution of the present application, applicant has amended the independent claim to further distinguish applicant's claim language from the Grande and Ramachandran references, as follows:

"gaming machine door assembly comprising a plurality of components, at least some of the components being elongated members having fasteners at opposed end portions for facilitating individual finishing of the components" (Claim 1, as currently amended)

With respect to such independent claim, the Examiner relied upon Figures 1 and 5 from the Ramachandran reference to make a prior art showing of applicant's claimed "door comprising a plurality of components, at least some of the components being elongated members having fasteners at opposed end portions" (Claim 1, prior to the amendment)



Applicant respectfully asserts that the figures from Ramachandran relied upon by the Examiner merely disclose that a "Fascia [22] includes a customer interface panel 136" (Ramachandran, Col. 7, lines 54-55), "a pair of side panels 144 and 146 [which] are attached to the sides of the customer interface panel 136" (Ramachandran, Col. 8, lines 4-5), "[a] lower panel 152 [which] is attached by fasteners to the bottom of the customer interface panel 136" (Ramachandran, Col. 8, lines 9-11), and "[a] top panel 156 [which] is attached to the top of the customer interface panel 136 by fasteners" (Ramachandran, Col. 8, lines 14-15). In addition, applicant respectfully asserts that Col. 9, lines 40-55 in Ramachandran merely discloses that "[a] further advantage associated with having a fully removable fascia is the ability to easily test and replace the input devices, sensors and other electrical devices mounted thereon."

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Clearly, the disclosure of a fully removable fascia for easily testing and replacing the input devices, sensors and other electrical devices mounted thereon fails to even suggest a "gaming machine door assembly comprising a plurality of components, at least some of the components being elongated members having fasteners at opposed end portions for facilitating individual finishing of the components" (emphasis added), as claimed by applicant.

Thus, applicant respectfully asserts that at least the first and third element of the *prima facie* case of obviousness have not been met, since it would be *unobvious* to combine the references, as noted above, and the prior art references, when combined, fail to teach or suggest all of the claim limitations, as noted above. It should be noted that new Claim 22 is deemed allowable for similar, but not necessarily identical reasons. Thus, a notice of allowance or specific prior art showing of each of the foregoing claim elements, in combination with the remaining claimed features, is respectfully requested.

Applicant further notes that the prior art is also deficient with respect to the dependent claims. For example, with respect to Claim 4, the Examiner has rejected the same under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Grande in view of Ramachandran in view of Halic (U.S. Patent No. 5,700,195). Specifically, the Examiner has relied Figures 2 and 3 from the Halic reference to make a prior art showing of applicant's claimed "belly door connected to the gaming machine door assembly and operable between an open position in which a selected one of the rails is visible, and a closed position in which the selected one of the rails is concealed" (Claim 4, as currently amended).

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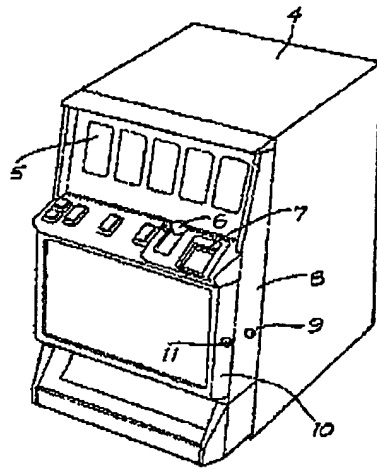


FIG. 2

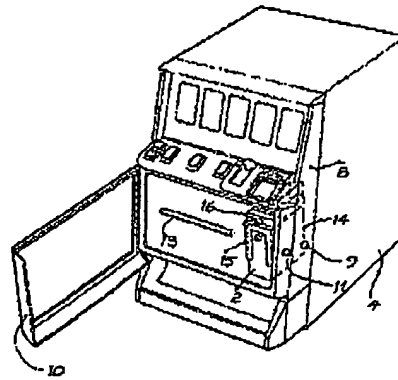


FIG. 3

"The slot machine shown in FIG. 2 has a casing 4 having the usual window 5, a coin slot 6 and a bill receiving slot 7. The casing 4 has a main or first lockable door 8 which is secured by means of the lock 9. Hinged from the first door 8 is a second lockable door 10 secured by the lock 11. The second lockable door 10 normally carries on its face a prize schedule which can be readily changed if the machine is to have its combination or game changed. It is illuminated by a fluorescent lamp 13 which is readily accessible for replacement. The opening of the second door 10 reveals the stacker 2 on which is mounted the validator 1 in the position shown in FIG. 1. Access to the stacker is secured by the drop down door 15 which can be lowered to a position shown in FIG. 4 after unlocking the lock 16." (Halic, Col. 2, lines 28-41 - not specifically cited - emphasis added)

Applicant respectfully asserts that the Figures from Halic relied upon by the Examiner merely disclose that "[t]he opening of the second door 10 reveals the stacker 2 on which is mounted the validator 1 in the position shown in FIG. 1" (emphasis added). In addition, Halic discloses that "[a]ccess to the stacker is secured by the drop down door 15 which can be lowered to a position shown in FIG. 4 after unlocking the lock 16" (emphasis added). Clearly, disclosing that opening the second door reveals the stacker, which is secured by a drop down door, fails to even suggest a "belly door connected to the gaming machine door assembly and operable between an open position in which a selected one of the rails is visible, and a closed position in which the selected one of the rails is concealed" (emphasis added), as claimed by applicant.

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Again, a notice of allowance or specific prior art showing of each of the foregoing claim elements, in combination with the remaining claimed features, is respectfully requested.

To this end, all of the independent claims are deemed allowable. Moreover, the remaining dependent claims are further deemed allowable, in view of their dependence on such independent claims.

In the event a telephone conversation would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner may reach the undersigned at (408) 505-5100. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1351 (Order No. TRKYP012).

Respectfully submitted,
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